

## Sports Opinion



**Mike Kluck**

### Tiger Coach Stewart shows hunger again

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Norm Stewart is ready for the basketball season to begin.

The legendary Missouri coach announced to the media Thursday that he has his game face on already, even though the Tigers have three weeks before their first game.

Stewart's game face looks like a hungry Tiger who has just seen a gazelle running in the wilderness.

The dean of the Tigers at Missouri is ready to attack.

He has picked himself up and licked his wounds from last year's beatings. The Tiger's completed a sub-standard 18-15 season a year ago, including a 6-8 mark and sixth-place finish in the Big Eight.

It was so bad in Columbia last season that a local sports writer suggested Stewart should retire for the good of the university and the betterment of the Tiger basketball program.

The man who's been involved in 1,033 of the 2,057 games that have been played at Missouri should resign?

The Tiger who was born in Missouri, played basketball in the Show-Me-State, was on the Tiger baseball team that won the NCAA championship and this season will probably win his 600th game at Missouri should leave?

I don't think so.

Neither did Norm.

Instead, he has a look of hunger and desire in his eyes as Missouri begins its first season in the Big 12 and Stewart enters his third decade at Missouri.

And he has the league gazelles — also known as fellow coaches — concerned.

"Of course they will be back," Kansas State Coach Tom Asbury said. "He'll have them back and competitive and tough. Don't ever discount his teams."

Said Iowa State Coach Tim Floyd: "Anybody who is talking about Missouri being down had better look out. I see that same look again in Norm, with the same toughness he has always shown."

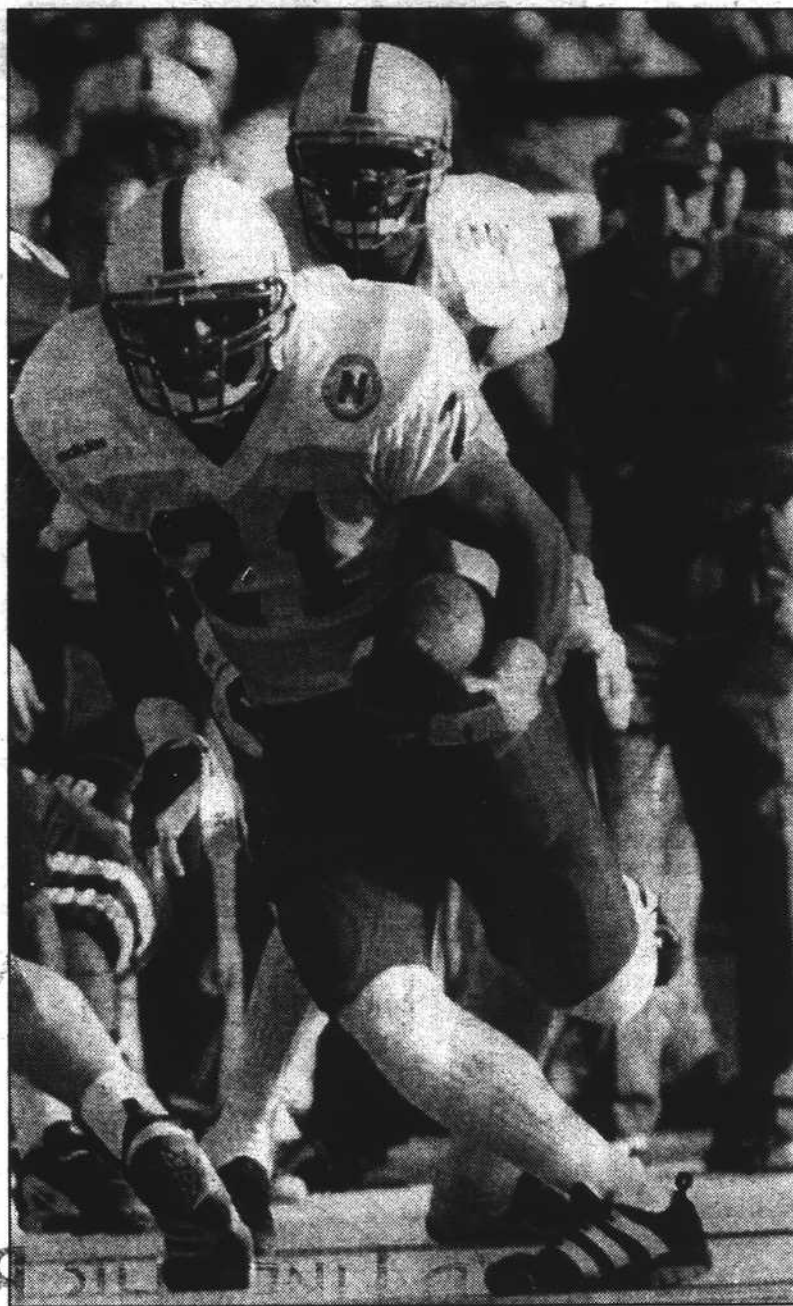
But Stewart is gradually taking both the success (an appearance in the National Invitation Tournament) and the disappointment (a 4-13 road mark) from last season and using them to build this season.

"If you stay at it and you stay abreast, the game keeps you young. It matters what you have in here," Stewart said pointing to his heart, "both for coaching and playing."

"If your heart's not in it, you're not going to have any success."

Stewart certainly still has the love to continue to feast on gazelles.

**Kluck is a graduate student in journalism and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.**



RYAN SÖDERLIND/NDN

**DAMON BENNING** returns a punt during Nebraska's 24-10 victory over Texas Tech, the last opponent Nebraska played on the road. NU travels to Norman, Okla., to face 2-5 Oklahoma Saturday at 11 a.m.

## NU to conclude regular season

BY VINCE D'ADAMO  
Staff Reporter

The fifth-ranked Nebraska soccer team puts the finishing touches on its regular season this weekend.

The 17-0 Cornhuskers take on Texas Christian (7-10) at 1 p.m. Saturday and Southern Methodist (9-4-4) at 3 p.m. in the Puma Classic Sunday in Dallas.

With conference wins over Baylor and Texas Tech last weekend, the Huskers wrapped up the Big 12 regular-season title. The victories also earned the Huskers a first-round bye in the Big 12 Tournament, Nov. 7 through 10 in St. Louis.

"We're real pleased with winning (the Big 12)," NU Coach John Walker said. "It's already a strong conference. There are a lot of young teams, including ourselves."

Despite winning the conference, striker Lindsay Eddleman said the team cannot become comfortable.

"It hasn't really hit us until we get to the NCAA Tournament and all the way to the Final Four," said Eddleman, who is one of three freshmen among the team's top four scorers. "We can't get cocky about it. We have to keep playing with the same intensity."

TCU enters the weekend having lost three-straight games. Opponents have blanked the Horned

## Soccer

Puma Classic, Dallas

vs. Texas Christian, Saturday, 1 p.m.

vs. Southern Methodist, Sunday, 3 p.m.

Frogs seven times this season. Sarah Suess leads TCU with 24 points on nine goals.

SMU lost its top two scorers from a team that advanced to the Final Four a year ago. Because of that, first-year coach Greg Ryan has been forced to rebuild.

However, Walker said SMU is still a formidable squad.

"They're one of the strongest teams in the country," Walker said.

The Mustangs are paced by Marci Miller, who has 20 points on nine goals. Defensively, goalkeeper Erin Poole has recorded eight shut-outs and 77 saves.

"It's going to be a challenge," Eddleman said.

Nebraska has relied on a different player for offensive firepower nearly every week this season. Last week, it was Isabelle Momeau, who scored three of NU's four goals.

"It's definitely huge," Walker said. "We don't have one player accounting for 80 percent of the offense. For us, it's seven or eight people scoring a lot of points."

## Huskers say OU is still dangerous

Sooners show signs of life as their meeting with NU approaches.

BY TREVOR PARKS  
Senior Reporter

Mike Minter grew up in a place where few Nebraska football players are raised — Oklahoma.

But Minter, now a senior rover and Cornhusker co-captain from Lawton, Okla., — which is 78 miles northwest of Norman — didn't grow up dreaming of wearing Sooner red.

He wanted to play for the Cornhuskers.

Saturday, when fifth-ranked NU (6-1 overall and 4-0 in the Big 12) plays OU (2-5 and 2-2) in an 11 a.m. game in Norman, Minter will have a little extra spring in his step.

"It's a big game for me," said Minter, who will have 30 to 40 family members and friends in the stands at Memorial Stadium. "I've been looking forward to it ever since they put it on the schedule."

Because of an injured knee, Minter missed his first chance for a homecoming in Nebraska's 13-3 win at Oklahoma in 1994.



He had six tackles in Nebraska's 37-0 win over the Sooners last season, and during his redshirt freshman season, Minter forced a fumble on a kick-off following a Nebraska touchdown against the Sooners.

Since 1950, the Nebraska-Oklahoma game has been the conference's final contest of the season 39 times. It's been one of the last two regular-season games for the Huskers 35 times.

The last time the OU-NU game was played this early in the season was Oct. 31, 1959.

The Sooners, then 3-2 and ranked No. 19, traveled to Lincoln to face a 2-4 Nebraska team. The Huskers upset Oklahoma 25-21, ending the Sooners' 74-game conference winning streak.

NU enters Saturday's game having won 27-straight conference games and needing one victory to ensure its 35th-consecutive winning season.

Tackle Jason Peter, who will play for the second straight week with his left hand in a cast, said records do not matter when Nebraska and Oklahoma play.

"It's NU-OU week, and the whole

Please see OU on 9

## NU battles fatigue in trip to Oklahoma

BY SHANNON HEFFELFINGER  
Staff Reporter

Just before the Oklahoma volleyball team left the NU Coliseum after losing to Nebraska last month, it was searching for an identity, Sooner Coach Miles Pabst said.

Two weeks and four matches later, a case could be made that it still hasn't found one.

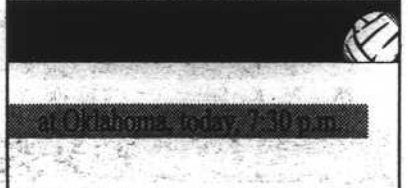
Oklahoma (12-9 overall and 3-7 in the Big 12) will enter tonight's 7:30 match in Norman, Okla., against the Huskers (18-3 and 10-1) on a three-match winning streak. However, all three victories came against teams with losing conference records, including 0-10 Missouri.

With less than half of OU's conference matches remaining, Pabst — who previously said that he would like the Sooners to be in the upper half of the league — finds his team in a three-way tie for seventh place.

No. 7 Nebraska, on the other hand, just keeps adding more weapons to its arsenal. The Cornhuskers, a good passing team who have been defensively sound all season, swept Colorado with one of their strongest serving performances of the season on Wednesday.

Husker Coach Terry Pettit said defensive specialist Maria Hedbeck, one of two seniors on NU's roster, played a large part in Nebraska's dominance at the serving line. Hedbeck recorded three aces in Wednesday night's match. Hedbeck credited the Huskers' im-

## Volleyball



proved serving and early dominance over the Buffaloes to Nebraska's loss at Texas Tech last weekend.

"We took what happened in Texas as a good experience," Hedbeck said. "At this point in the season, where things start to drag a little bit, we needed that."

"It helped us realize what we needed to work on."

NU has recorded nine-straight victories over the Sooners, including six-consecutive sweeps. Oklahoma is led by Patrice Arrington, who averages 4.79 kills per game. The Huskers dominated OU in Lincoln two weeks ago largely because NU controlled the junior outside hitter, limiting her to four kills and a minus-.158 hitting percentage.

Pettit said he hopes fatigue doesn't set in tonight in NU's fourth match — three of which have been on the road — in six days.

But Hedbeck said the traveling won't affect its play as NU moves into the last third of the season.

"We are in great physical shape," Hedbeck said, "and I think that's an advantage we hold over other teams."